

MARVEL

LEGACY

HOME OF THE BRAVE

PART 1

695



MARK WAID
CHRIS SAMNEE
MATTHEW WILSON



SAMNEE '17
MW

CAPTAIN AMERICA



An evil version of Captain America led the world to the brink of destruction. The original Captain America returned in time to stop him, but the dark legacy of the Secret Empire lingers on—a truth felt by no one more than Steve Rogers himself. Can Steve find his place in a world that has been made to fear Captain America?

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LETTERER: VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA COVER: CHRIS SAMNEE & MATTHEW WILSON

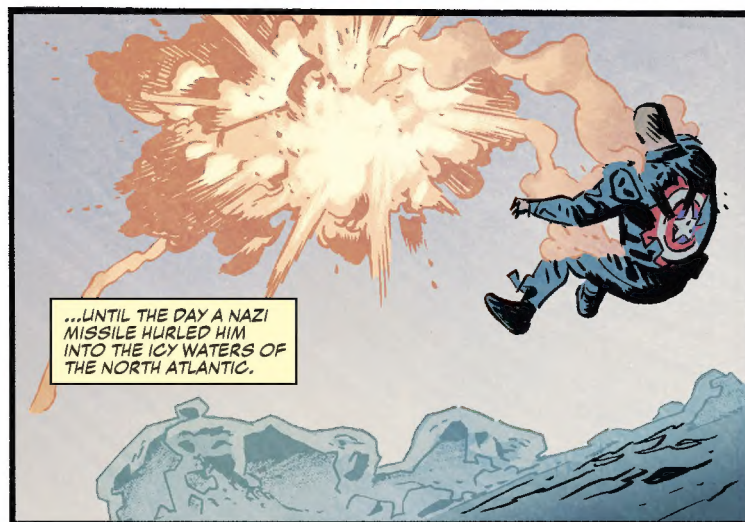
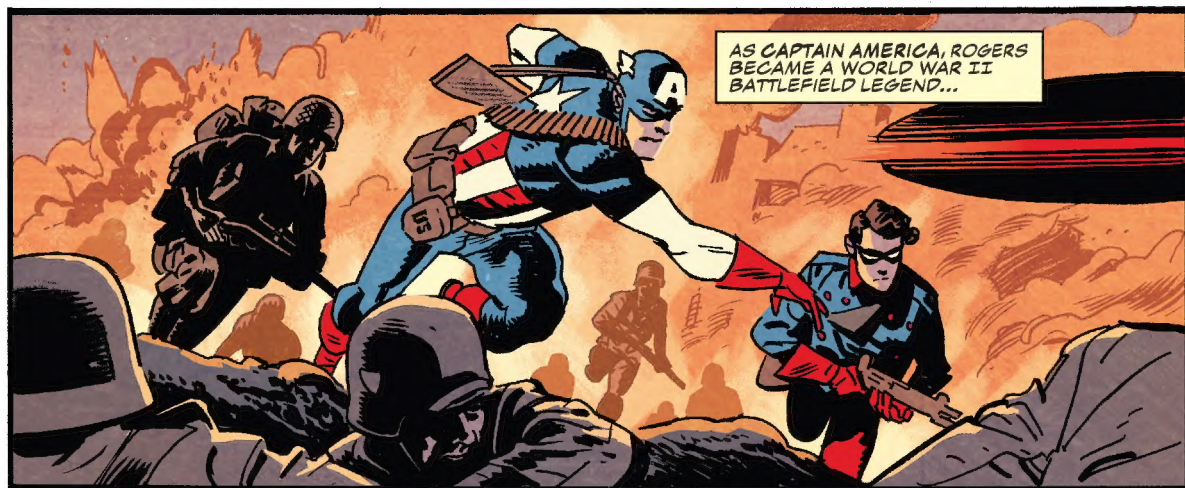
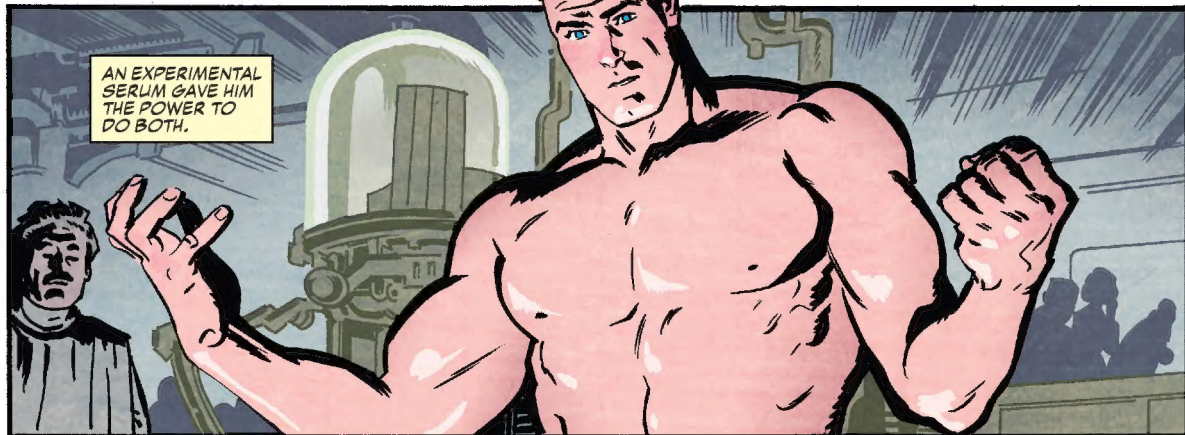
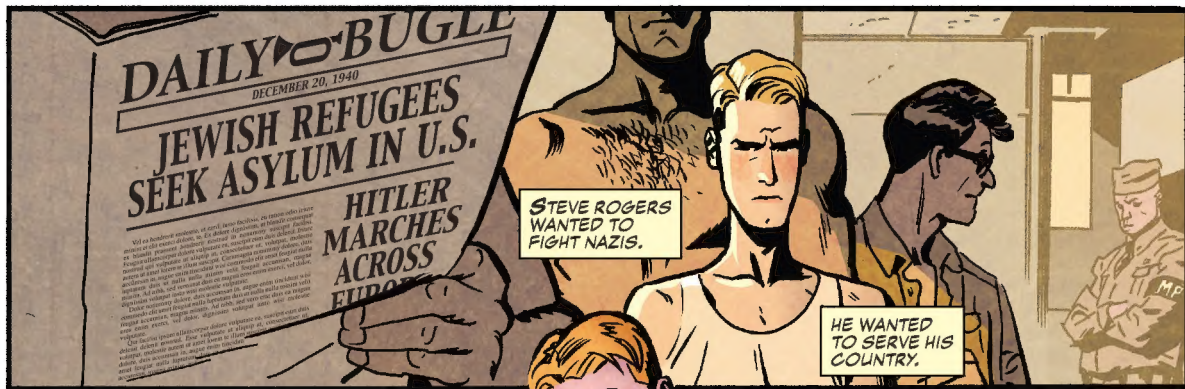
VARIANT COVERS: ALEX ROSS AFTER JOHN ROMITA JR. & BOB LAYTON; JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER WITH ARIEL OLIVETTI; ADI GRANOV; MIKE MCKONE & RACHELLE ROSENBERG; JIM STERANKO

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CAPTAIN AMERICA CREATED BY JOE SIMON & JACK KIRBY



...AND LEGENDS
NEVER DIE.

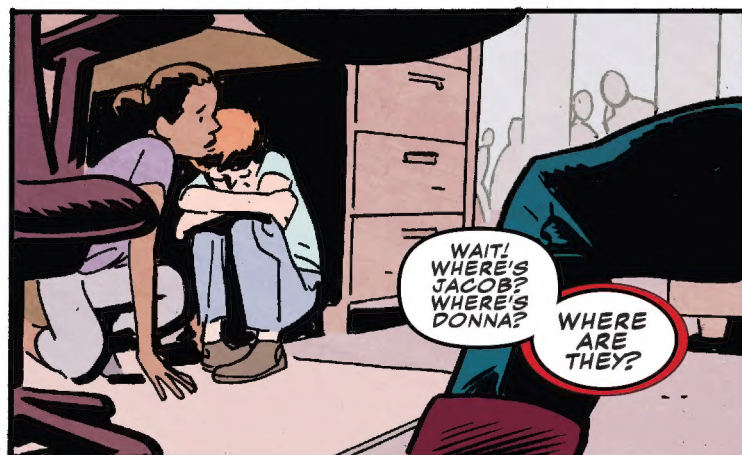
GET
HIM!

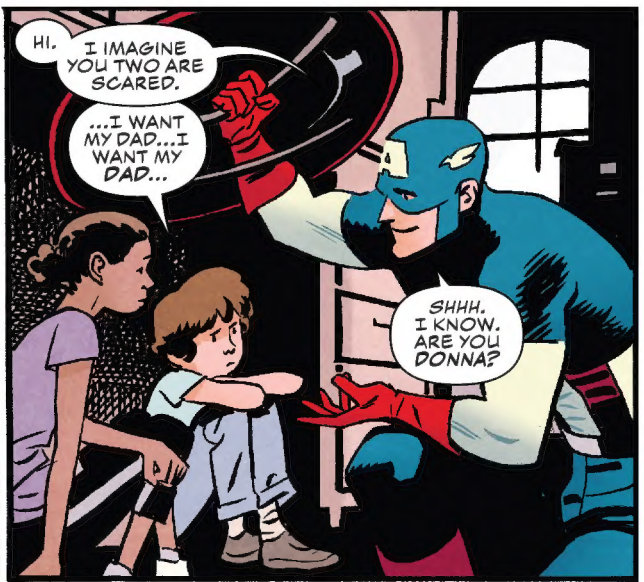
WE'RE
TRYIN'!

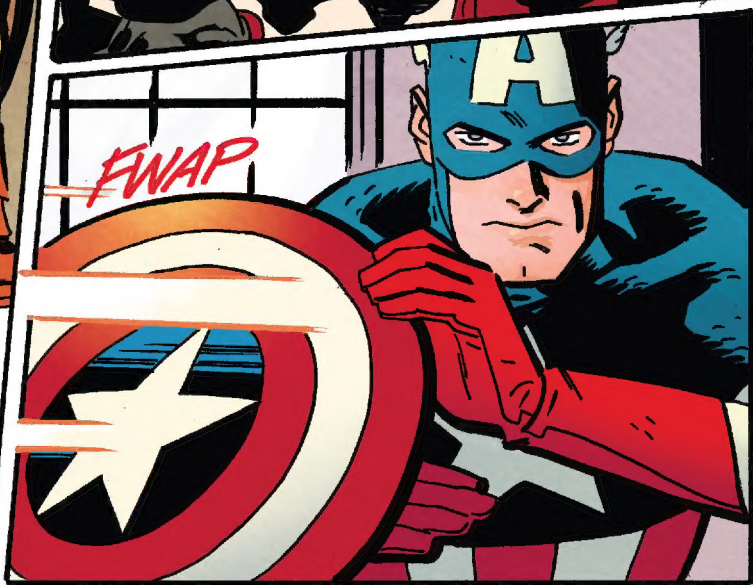
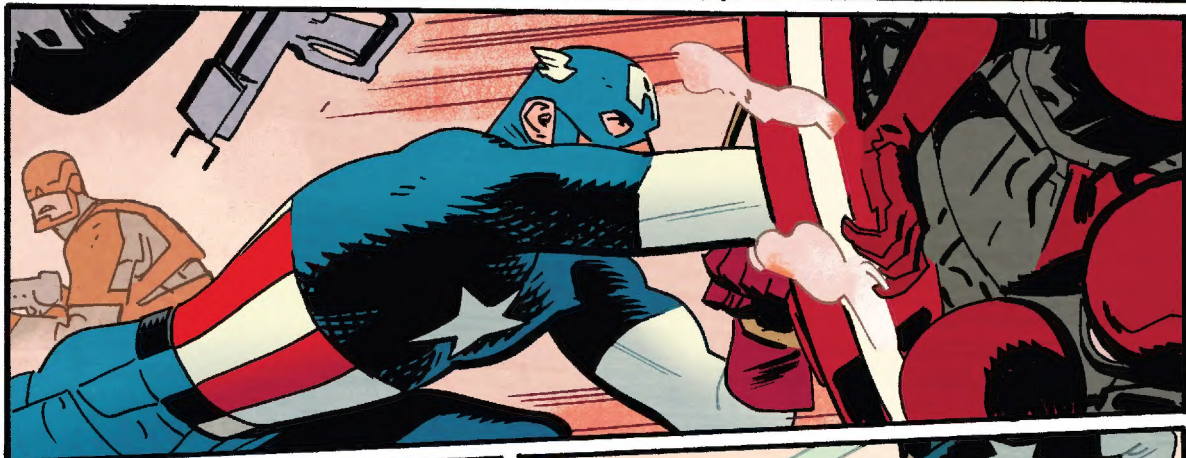
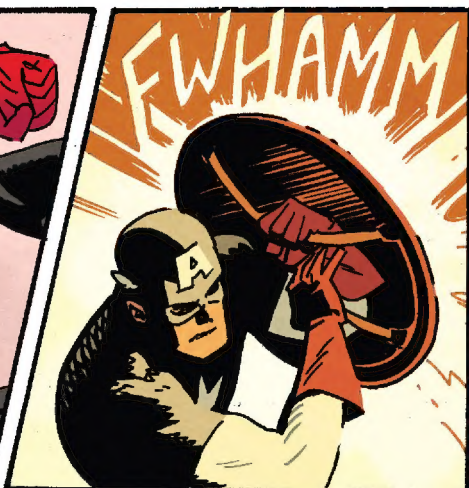
WHO IS
THIS GUY?
HE'S MOVIN' LIKE
A ROCKET
SLED!

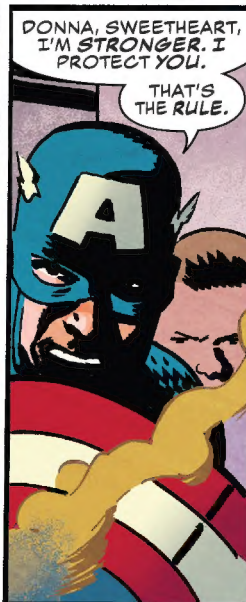
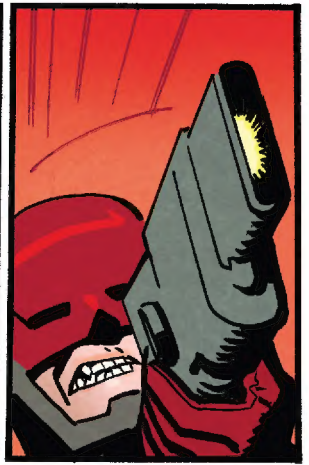
FWANG













I WANNA GO HOME.

AND CRAWL UNDER THE COVERS. I GET THAT. JUST THE OTHER DAY, I WOKE UP FROM A VERY, VERY LONG NAP, AND I KIND OF WONDER IF I'M STILL ASLEEP.

HOW LONG DID YOU SLEE--

WAIT! I KNOW WHO YOU ARE! TEACHER TALKED ABOUT YOU!



ARE YOU RIP VAN WINKLE?

NO. YOU DID GOOD, DONNA.

EXCEPT FOR THE RUNNING INTO A FIREFIGHT PART.

THANK YOU.



YOUR TOWN IS SAFE. I SAW TO IT ON MY WAY HERE.

THE NATIONAL GUARD IS JUST OVER THE HILL. THEY'LL CLEAN UP BEFORE ANY OF THESE NAZ--

--THESE "RAMPART" SUPREMACISTS CAUSE ANY MORE TROUBLE.



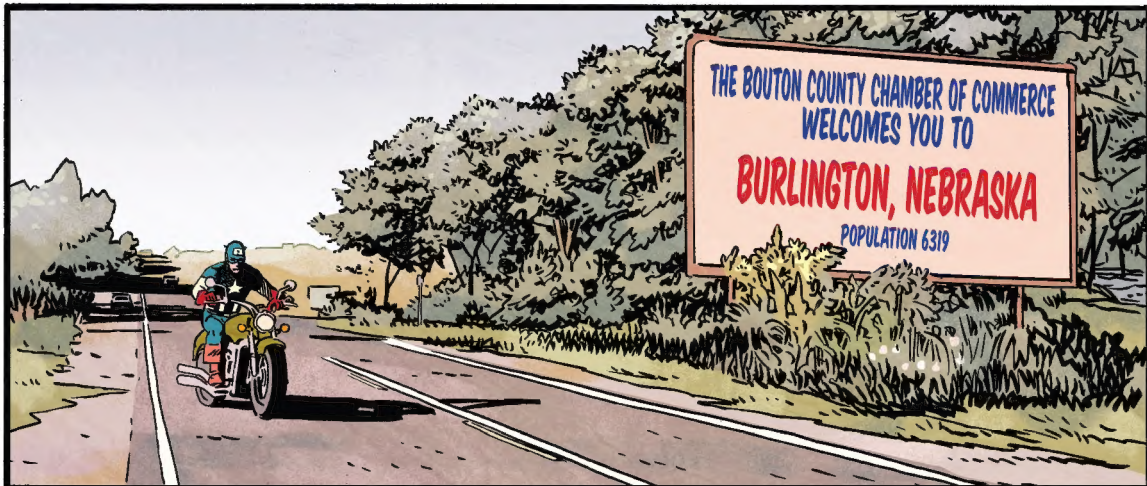
YOU...

...SAVED OUR LIVES...

WHAT'S YOUR NAME? AT LEAST TELL US THAT.

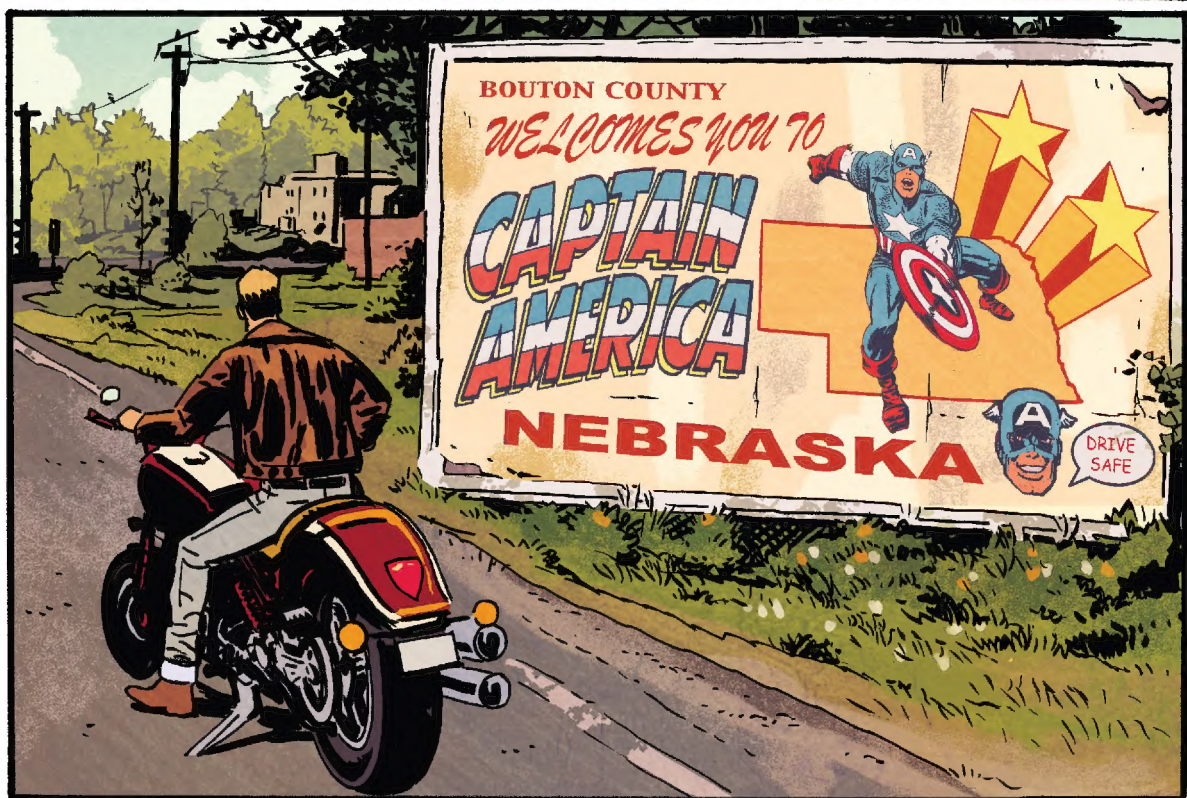
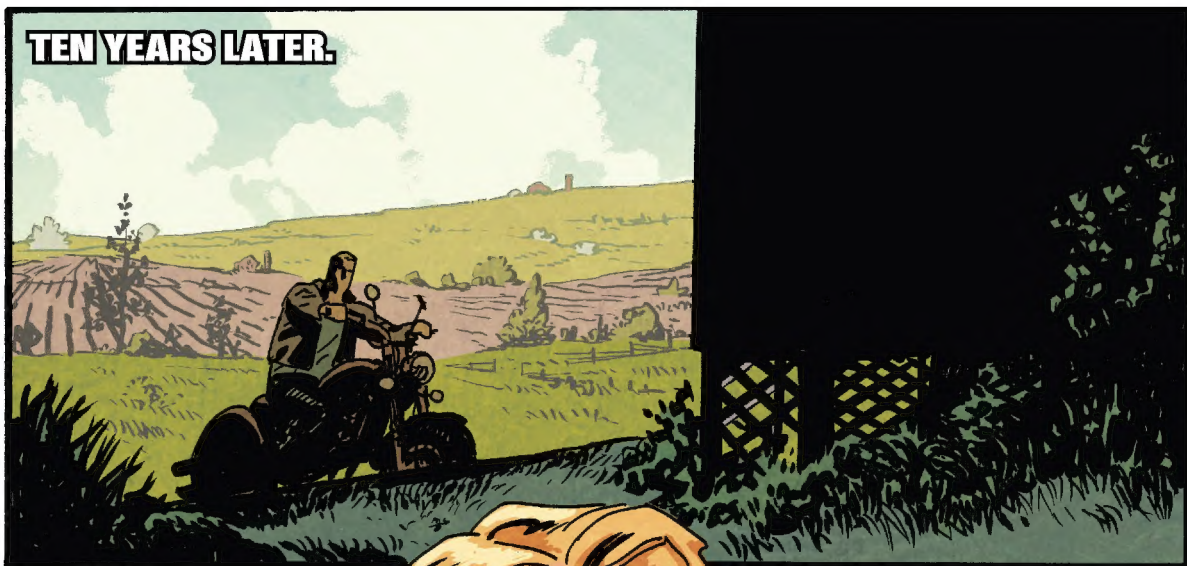
ASK YOUR GRANDPARENTS. THEY MIGHT KNOW.

TAKE CARE.

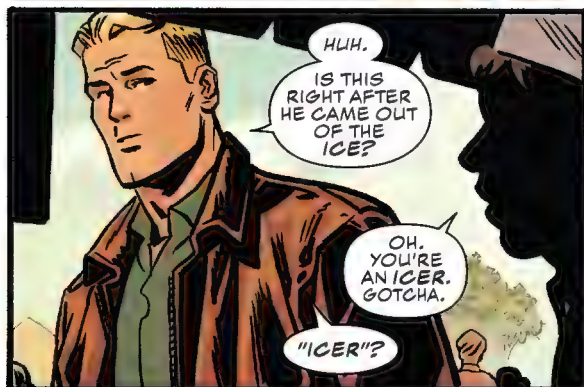
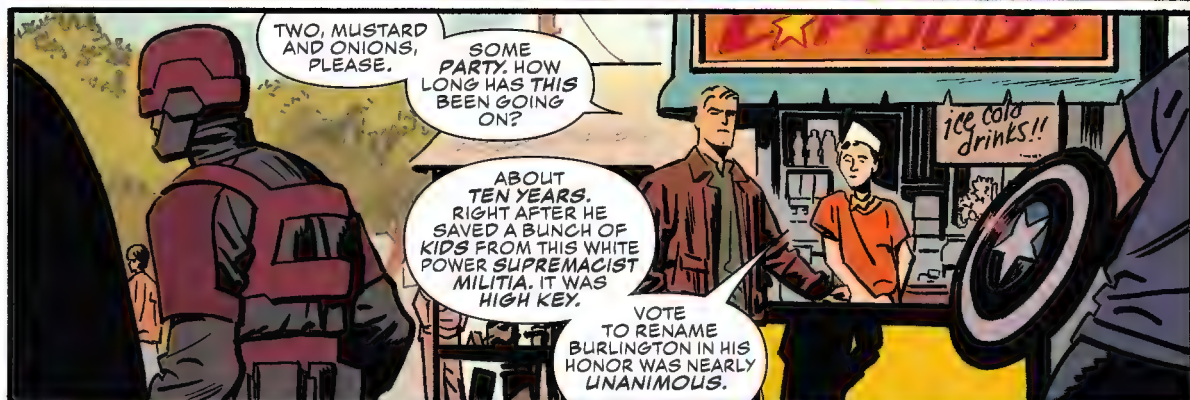


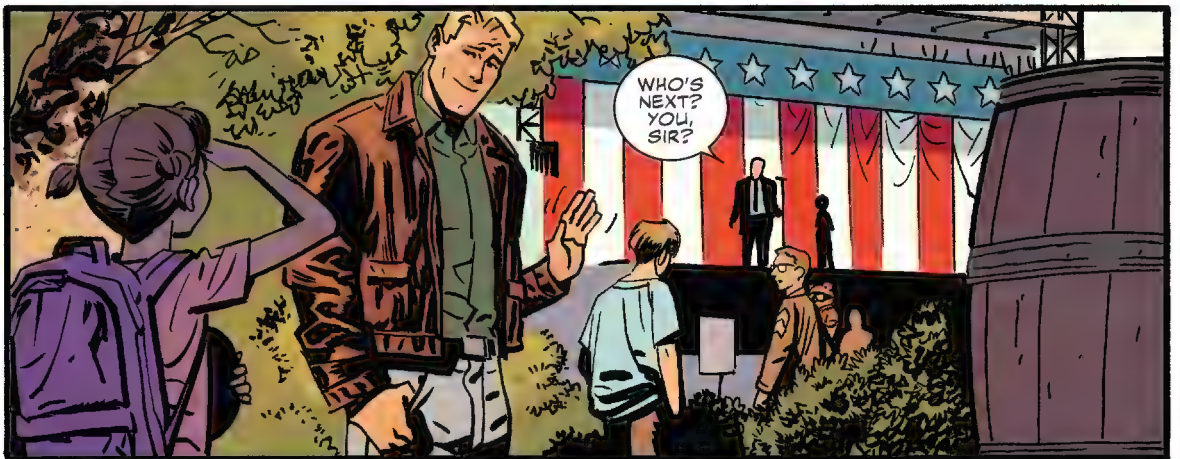
THE BOUTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
WELCOMES YOU TO
BURLINGTON, NEBRASKA
POPULATION 6319

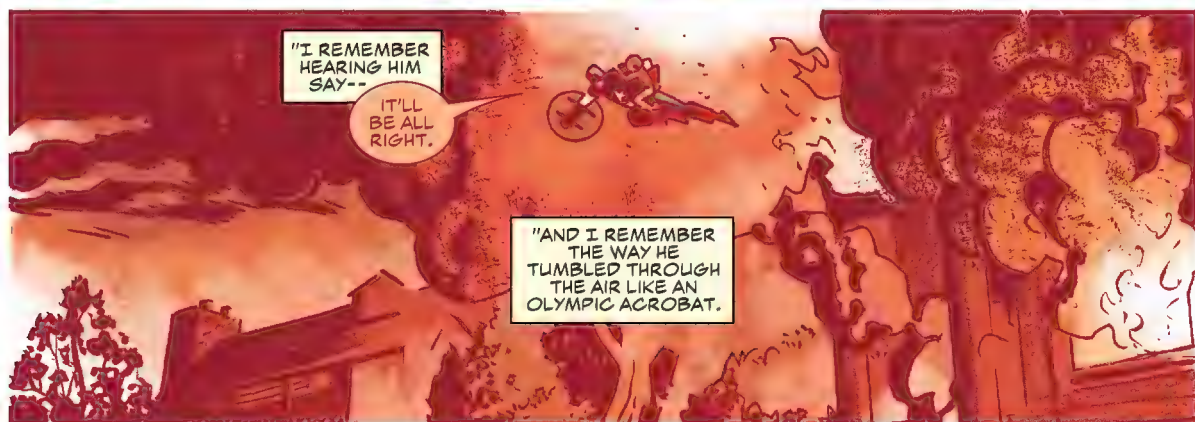
TEN YEARS LATER.

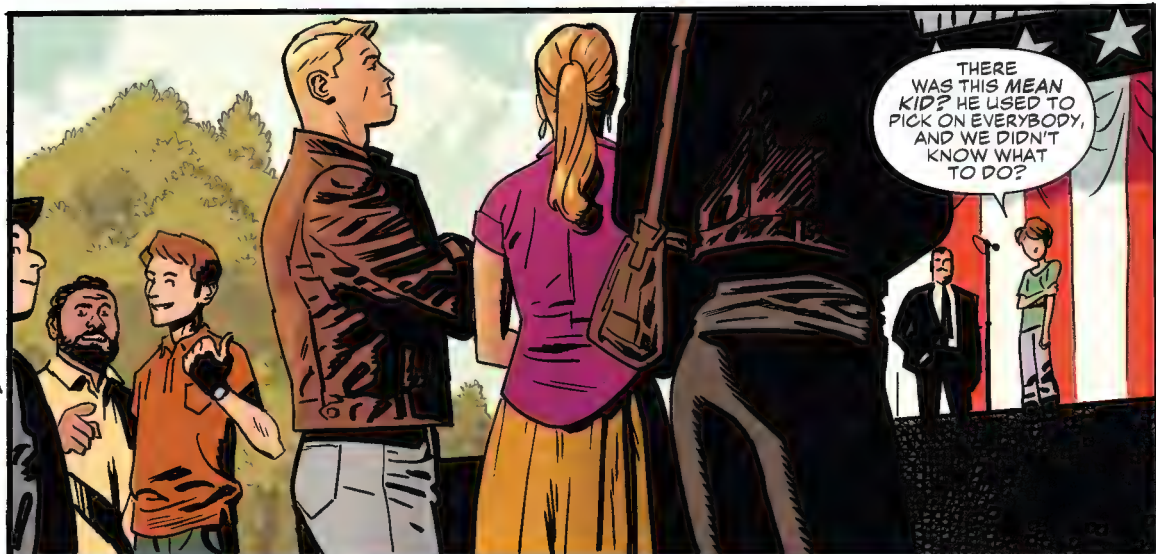












THERE WAS THIS MEAN KID? HE USED TO PICK ON EVERYBODY, AND WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO?



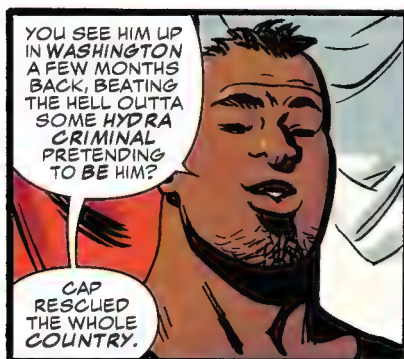
"SOMEBODY SHOWED ME THIS VIDEO OF CAP BUSTING UP SOME SUPER VILLAIN. CAP TOOK, LIKE, A MILLION PUNCHES, BUT HE NEVER RAN."



"I DECIDED THAT IF CAP WASN'T AFRAID..."



...THEN I DIDN'T WANT TO BE, EITHER.



YOU SEE HIM UP IN WASHINGTON A FEW MONTHS BACK, BEATING THE HELL OUTTA SOME HYDRA CRIMINAL PRETENDING TO BE HIM?

CAP RESCUED THE WHOLE COUNTRY.



IT GOT PRETTY AWFUL BEFORE CAP STEPPED UP, BUT THEY SAY HE HAD TO BUST OUT OF A TRAP FIRST.

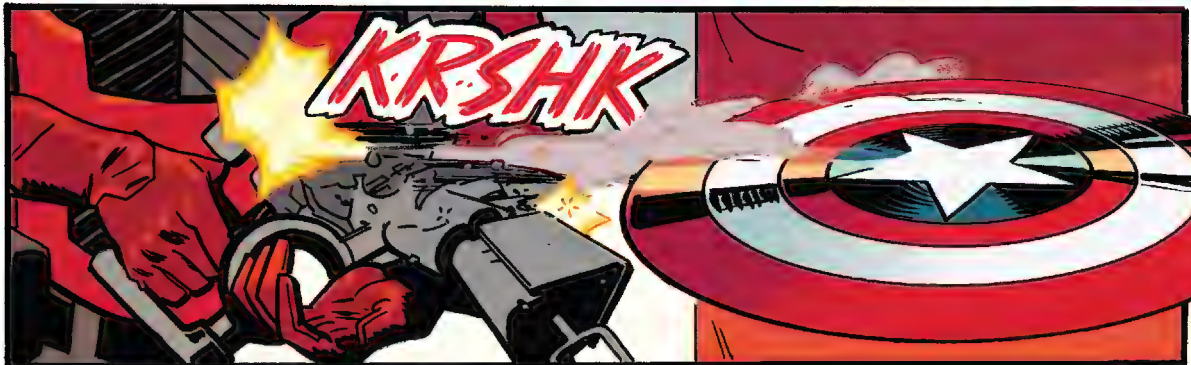
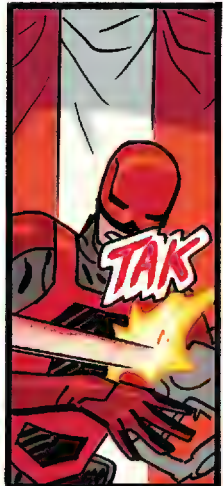
THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT. HE'D NEVER GIVE UP ON ANY OF US.

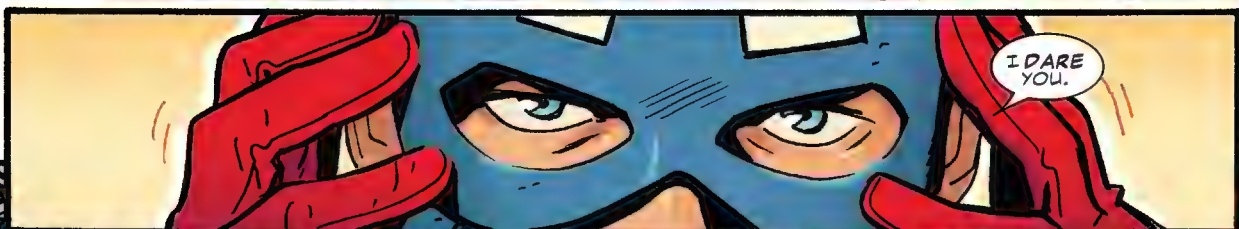


SURE, LOTS OF PEOPLE ARE STILL ANGRY AT HIM FOR LETTING IT GET AS FAR AS IT DID, AND I GET IT.

BUT THOSE PEOPLE AREN'T HERE TODAY, ARE THEY?











YOU...

KAFF

WHAT, DO YOU
THINK I'M HERE BY
COINCIDENCE?

I HAVE
INTEL. I HEARD
YOU MIGHT STICK
YOUR REPUGNANT
HEADS UP AGAIN
IN THIS TOWN.



TELL
ME MORE
ABOUT THIS
"RAMPART."
NOW.



YOU'LL
LEARN MORE
SOON.

KA KLAK

SMASH!



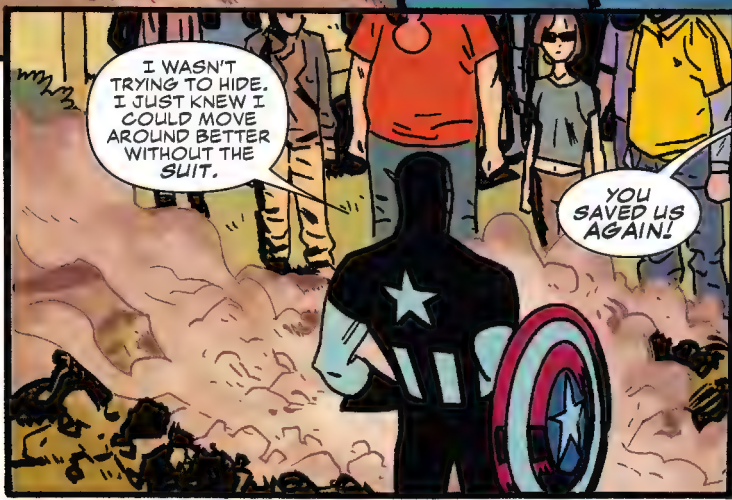
...
I'M SORRY
YOU HAD
TO SEE ANY
OF THAT.

I GUESS
YOU KNOW FOR
SURE WHO I
AM NOW.

FORGIVE
ME, I'M...VERY
FLATTERED BY ALL
THIS, I REALLY
AM...

...BUT I
DIDN'T COME FOR
YOUR FESTIVAL. TO
BE HONEST, I TEND TO
GET A LITTLE SELF-
CONSCIOUS WHEN
PEOPLE MAKE
A FUSS.

I CAME
BECAUSE I
HAD A JOB
TO DO.



I WASN'T
TRYING TO HIDE.
I JUST KNEW I
COULD MOVE
AROUND BETTER
WITHOUT THE
SUIT.

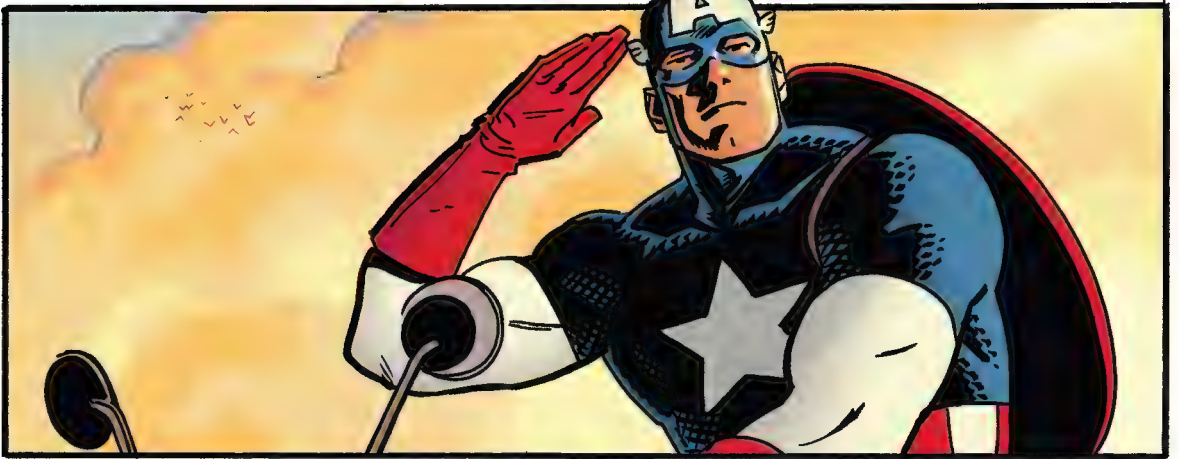
YOU
SAVED US
AGAIN!



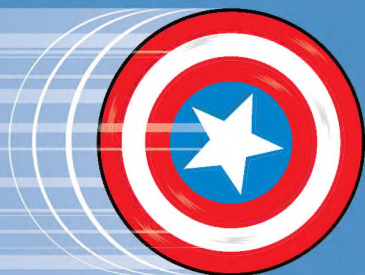
YOU'RE
A HERO!

YOU'RE AN
INSPIRATION!

WHY?
BECAUSE I'M
TALL AND I HAVE
A SHIELD?



CAP'S CORNER



WHAT DOES CAPTAIN AMERICA MEAN TO YOU?

I started reading comics when I was four years old. [I was a precocious child.] And I loved my comics--my DC comics. Back then, there was only one Marvel hero I liked: Captain America. [I later came around.] I admired his nobility and the way he took action where the other Marvel heroes I foolishly disdained would wallow in their troubles. I admired Cap because he stood for something. I admired him because he always had a plan and he never gave up.

From the time I hit first grade, Steve Rogers became my constant companion. In high school, my friend Jeff helped me make a Cap shield out of a plastic sled. [It didn't age well, but boy, I carried it around a LOT. Also, YOU try freehand drawing a perfect five-pointed star.] In college, my pal Donna made me a Cap jersey, stripes and all, and if you attended Virginia Commonwealth University in the early 1980s, you probably saw me ambling blithely around with a "Yeah, so?" expression. Maybe you heard me--I was the WVCW radio DJ who called himself "Captain America." Or maybe you were in my American Civics class where, for an assignment, I actually read aloud Steve Englehart's words from CAPTAIN AMERICA #183.

I share these confessions with you not because I'm in a mood to cringe in embarrassment now. [And yet.] I'm just willing to go that far to reassure you, if you're a new reader not sure what you're getting into, that Cap has been a meaningful part of my entire life. As unfashionable and retro-corny as it is, I have always believed that it's possible to be a good guy not because you need to exorcise some personal demons or because you're expecting some reward, but because life is just better when I watch your back and you watch mine. And I choose to think that, at heart, you believe the same.

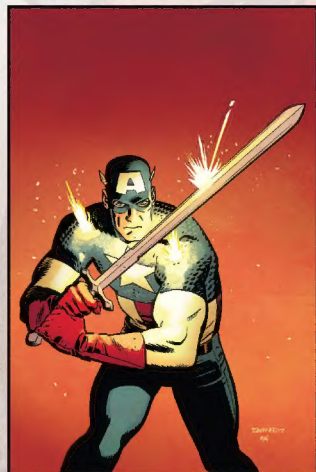
I don't recommend, as an adult, drawing all your morality and ethics from super heroes. They are fortunate enough to live in a wonderful world where might always makes right, one sometimes absent the gray areas we struggle with as we mature. Nonetheless, I will share Steve Rogers' core belief until the day I die: If you have the ability to help, then you have the responsibility, because everybody ultimately benefits. Life isn't fair, but people can strive to be, and we are all better for it when we do.

[Incredibly, by the way, I got a B+ on the assignment. My regrets are minimal.]

-Mark Waid

NEXT:

CAPTAIN AMERICA #696



THE SWORDSMAN STRIKES!

What does Cap mean to you? Send us emails at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and mark them "Okay to Print," or tweet us using the hashtags [#CapLegacy](#) and [#OKtoprint](#) for a chance to see your marvelous missives in future issues!



ALL STEVE ROGERS
EVER WANTED
WAS TO FIGHT FOR
HIS COUNTRY IN
WORLD WAR II.

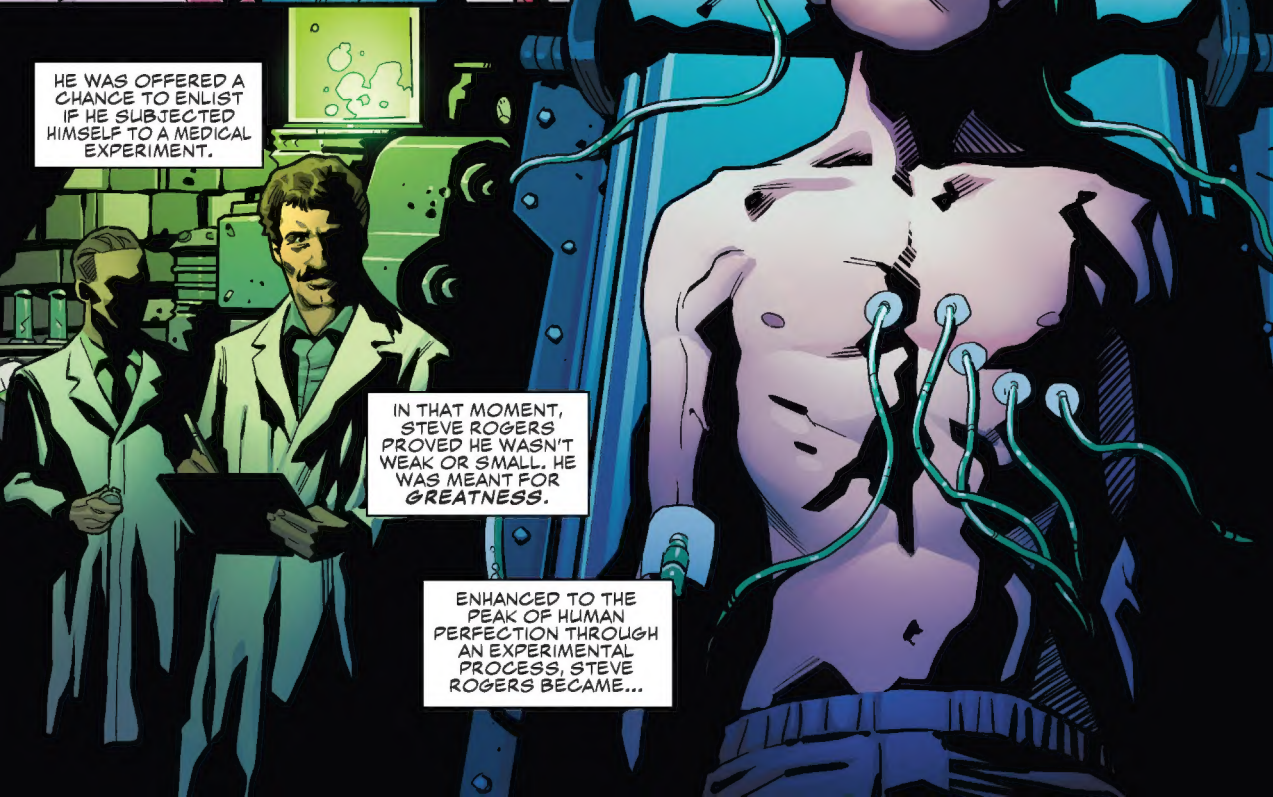
TO FIGHT
FOR WHAT
WAS RIGHT.



BUT EVERYONE
TOLD HIM HE
WAS TOO WEAK.



TOO
SMALL.



HE WAS OFFERED A
CHANCE TO ENLIST
IF HE SUBMITTED
HIMSELF TO A MEDICAL
EXPERIMENT.

IN THAT MOMENT,
STEVE ROGERS
PROVED HE WASN'T
WEAK OR SMALL. HE
WAS MEANT FOR
GREATNESS.

ENHANCED TO THE
PEAK OF HUMAN
PERFECTION THROUGH
AN EXPERIMENTAL
PROCESS, STEVE
ROGERS BECAME...

...A SUPER-
SOLDIER.

STEVE FOUGHT HIS WAY
THROUGH THE WAR,
TURNING THE TIDE FOR
THE ALLIES, UNTIL...

...HE WAS
LOST IN
BATTLE.

HE WAS
FROZEN FOR
DECADES,
UNTIL...

WAIT!
DON'T YOU
RECOGNIZE IT?
IT'S THE FAMOUS
RED-WHITE-AND-
BLUE GARB OF--
CAPTAIN
AMERICA!

THE WASP
IS RIGHT!

...THE AVENGERS
RECOVERED AND
REVIVED HIM.

A dynamic comic book illustration of Captain America in the center, wearing his iconic blue, white, and red suit with a large white star on his chest. He is surrounded by several defeated enemies in various costumes, including one in a green hooded suit and another in a red and white mask. Captain America's shield is visible on the right, reflecting light and showing signs of battle. The background is a fiery orange and yellow, suggesting a battle scene. The overall style is classic comic book art with bold lines and vibrant colors.

NOW, STEVE ROGERS
IS A MAN OUT OF TIME,
BUT HE STILL FIGHTS
FOR WHAT IS RIGHT,
BECAUSE HE WILL
ALWAYS BE...

CAPTAIN AMERICA

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